

We claim:

5

1. A dividing wall column comprising as segments

- 10 a) an upper column region,
 b) an inflow section,
 c) an offtake section and
 d) a lower column region,

where the inflow section b) and the offtake
15 section c) are separated from one another
laterally by a dividing wall fixed in the column
and the dividing wall is located between the upper
column region a) and the lower column region d),
wherein the dividing wall is constructed at least
20 partly of an elastic material, the dividing wall
has a slightly overdimensional width and the
dividing wall is fixed in the column by the
dividing wall exercising an elastic recovery force
on the interior wall of the column.

25

2. A dividing wall column as claimed in claim 1, wherein the dividing wall is constructed entirely of an elastic material.

30 3. A dividing wall column as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the dividing wall is a strip manufactured
in one piece.

4. A dividing wall column as claimed in claim 1,
35 wherein the material of which the dividing wall is
constructed comprises plastic, preferably poly-
tetrafluoroethylene.

5. A dividing wall column as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the material of which the dividing wall is
constructed comprises corrosion-resistant metallic
materials, preferably chromium-nickel-containing
stainless steels.
6. A dividing wall column as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the lateral edges of the dividing wall are
chamfered, with the angle of chamfer preferably
being from 20 to 60°.
7. A dividing wall column as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the dividing wall is straight or bent into
a Z or U shape when installed in the column.
8. A dividing wall column as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the manufacturing tolerance of the internal
diameter of the column is less than 1.5 mm,
preferably less than 1 mm.
9. A dividing wall column as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the dividing wall is constructed entirely
of a metallic material and the thickness of the
dividing wall is from 0.05 to 1 mm, preferably
from 0.1 to 0.3 mm.
10. A dividing wall column as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the dividing wall is constructed entirely
of plastic and the thickness of the dividing wall
is from 1 to 10 mm, preferably from 2 to 5 mm.

09847299.050301
"6624860"